

ORWIGSBURG HAPPENINGS

From Where It All Began

... Is Happening Again

No. 93 – Issued Quarterly

BOROUGH OF ORWIGSBURG, PA

November 2017

Enjoy Our Beautiful Town During this Special Holiday Season

Holly Trail, Festival of Lights & Santa on Dec. 2

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year with much preparation going into planning the activities we enjoy – purchasing gifts for family and friends, decorating the home (inside and out), planning parties, and preparing and cooking the Christmas meal.

No matter how you spend your time preparing for Christmas, one thing is important to point out ... spend more time enjoying than preparing. We invite you to begin your Christmas celebration right here in your hometown.

The Orwigsburg Business & Professional Association, local churches, area businesses, the Orwigsburg Lions Club, and the Borough join together to help our community welcome the Christmas season with the annual Festival of Lights on Saturday,



Dec. 2 on Centre Square. In the event of rain or snow, activities could be rescheduled to Sunday, Dec. 3.

The festivities “on the square” begin at 4:30 p.m. with members of Blue Mountain High School band playing their merry tunes. Be sure to see the display of wreaths decorated by local businesses. Make sure to aid the Orwigsburg Lions Club serving up hot and cold

food items on the Community Parking Lot.

The Festival of Lights program begins at 5 p.m. and will feature the winners of the Holiday Home Decorating and the BMEE Coloring Contest, lighting of

Response Deadline Is Dec. 1

Your Opinion Needed!

The “Greater Orwigsburg Town Survey” is included in this issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* ... and your thoughts – both pro and con – are very important to the future of your town.

The 8-page survey along with a self-addressed “return” envelope has been inserted in the center of this newsletter for your convenience. Please complete the survey, re-fold and place inside the envelope, affix a 49¢ stamp postage, and drop it in the mail by the survey deadline of December 1, 2017. Or, save the postage and deposit the envelope in any one of several drop-off boxes placed at public places in town.

– Continued on page 2

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 11 – Veterans Day service on Centre Square; 11 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11 – Holiday Stop and Shop with Soup/Bake Sale at Salem UM Church, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 22 – Community-wide Thanksgiving Eve church service; 7 p.m.; hosted at St. John’s UCC, 232 E. Market St.

Saturday, Nov. 25 – Children’s Christmas Party; 5 to 8 p.m.; Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall; area children up to 10 years of age and parents/grandparents. FREE!

Saturday, Dec. 2 – Holly Trail, sponsored by the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library; 12 noon to 4 p.m.; tickets and tour program/map available at the library; call 570-366-1638.

Saturday, Dec. 2 – Festival of Lights; 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Orwigsburg Centre Square; program, food, entertainment, and trolley ride with Santa.

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2017 BOROUGH OFFICIALS

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www.orwigsburg.net

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Council President..... Buddy Touchinsky
Council Vice President..... Susan Murphy
Borough Manager..... Robert A. Williams
Secretary..... Sherry Edwards
Treasurer..... Colleen Hoptak
Tax Receiver..... Colleen Hoptak
Solicitor..... Paul Datte, Esq.
Borough Engineers..... ARRO Consulting, Inc.
Entech Engineering, Inc.
Alfred Benesch & Company
Fire Chief..... Dave Hardinger

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Darle Cresswell • Michele Rudloff
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David Teter

BOROUGH OFFICE

Sherry Edwards • Kathi Mengle

Orwigsburg Borough Council meets the First and Second Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, second floor of the Orwigsburg Municipal Building, 209 North Warren Street.

Both meetings are open to the public. A Work Session for discussions and setting of an agenda takes place on the First Wednesday; the Business Meeting is then held on the Second Wednesday.

OFFICIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Orwigsburg Borough offices will be closed on the following days in 2017 in observance of the stated holidays – New Year's Day, Jan. 2; Good Friday, April 14; Memorial Day, May 29; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, September 4; Veterans' Day, Nov. 10; Thanksgiving, Nov. 23 and 24; Christmas eve and day, Dec. 22 and 25.

Festival of Lights

– Continued from Page 1

the community Christmas tree, Centre Square decorations, lighting of candles, singing of carols, and the story of Christmas.

As always the planned activities conclude with an early visit from Santa Claus, riding a vintage trolley. The trolley offers a free ride around the Square enabling children to visit with Santa and to share their Christmas wishes. Lastly, plan a stop at one of our local restaurants for a nice dinner out to usher in the Christmas season.

Earlier in the afternoon, travel the Orwigsburg Library's Holly Trail from noon to 4 p.m. Tour some of the town's wonderfully decorated homes and enjoy the traditional tea and cookie stop at Kimmels Church complete with a picture memory, live music, and relaxing with good friends. For tickets and more information, contact the Orwigsburg Library at 570-366-1638.

To enter your Orwigsburg, Deer Lake, or McKeesburg area home for the Christmas Home Decorating Contest, contact Forget-Me-Not Flowers & Gift Shop at 570-366-2619 by November 28. Judging will take place Wednesday, Nov. 29. Awards will be announced during the Festival of Lights for: Most Creative, Brightest, Traditional, Most Creative Business, and one home not entered in the contest will also be chosen.

Town Survey

– Continued from Page 1

Drop-off locations are: the lobby area of the Orwigsburg Post Office on West Market Street and outside the Schuylkill EMS ambulance building on East Market. Both are accessible 24 hours per day. At Orwigsburg Borough Hall, 209 N. Warren, you can take it to the Borough Office during operating hours or any time in the Utility Bill collection box outside the front door.

Collection boxes are also located in the lobby of M&T Bank at Centre Square, the Orwigsburg Library, and at the Service Desk of Boyer's Food Market on South Liberty Street.

Thank you for helping to improve your town.

Salem United Methodist Church NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED

Salem UM Church is seeking an Attendant for its Nursery during Sunday morning services in Orwigsburg. Candidate must be responsible for caring for infants and toddlers. Background clearances required. Pay is \$60 per Sunday. The position will be shared between two persons. For application and job description, email: stewwarner@outlook.com



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Message from the Council President

Maintaining and Improving Our Town Is Key

Sustainability is the ability to operate or function at a certain level over the long term.

Many people are familiar with sustainability as it applies to the environment, but it can also apply to businesses and organizations, and even governments. In terms of our borough, one of the questions management, staff, and elected officials need to ask themselves, "Are the decisions we make helping or hurting our sustainability?"



BUDDY TOUCHINSKY
Council President

Case in point is our annual budgeting process. No one is ever happy about raising taxes. So, for a number of years, we would look at the budget with a level of optimism that never quite panned out. Expenses usually exceeded what was budgeted. These costs were not covered by revenue, thereby necessitating they be paid out of reserve funds.

It wasn't due to careless spending, just "bare bones" budgeting and an aversion to raising taxes. Expenditures that were unavoidable, those that increased annually, and infrastructure emergency needs soon would deplete reserve funds used to

cover what wasn't foreseen. This was not, and is not, sustainable.

Due to these tight budgets, infrastructure was put on the back burner. Money set aside for larger road repair projects was reduced in order to pay for deficits elsewhere in the budget. Again, this is not sustainable as eventually these roads will meet the end of their lifespan and will have to be addressed. Many of you know that this is already happening in various areas throughout town, and it is something that is definitely on the radar of the borough management.

The next budget to feel the pinch was the police budget. Last year the decision was made to NOT increase taxes sufficiently in order to fund an additional officer to provide near 24/7 police coverage for the Borough. Even prior to that, the decision was made to stretch the lifespan of our police vehicles. In both cases this resulted in creating more issues and costing more in the long run. Again, this is not sustainable.

Changes for a safe and vibrant future

So, we've found ourselves in a situation where something had to be done. Over the past few years we've spent much time and many late night deliberations at council meetings discussing the direction of

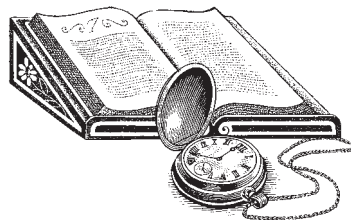
– Continued on page 6

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Message from the Council President

– Continued from Page 4

this Borough. We've also had a tremendous amount of very thoughtful and necessary feedback from our residents. The result has been overwhelming support to take action establishing policies and practices that ensure sustainability long term and maintain the atmosphere that attracts people and businesses to our Borough.

Specifically, we hired an additional police officer to get us closer to a 24/7 police force using full time officers only. Maintaining public safety and security is vital to attract and keep residents and to protect property values.

We also made changes with our Borough maintenance employees. Competitive pay and additional training has resulted in employees that can handle larger and more complex projects. This allows us to keep more work in-house vs. contracting out, saving us 10s of thousands of dollars per year. We're investing more in our infrastructure. We've completed several large projects over the past year or two and there will be a few more in the near future.

We're trying to do projects the right way, too. Instead of patching and putting band-aids on problems, we're working to fix things properly. With roads, this means not just filling potholes, but removing old asphalt, correcting drainage issues, and then paving to today's standards.

Tax increase is a necessity

So, the consequence of these actions is that we're spending more money than in the past. Taxes have already increased over the past 8 years I've been on Borough Council, and they will likely increase again for 2018. The members of Council are fiscally conservative. So, on one hand it pains us to have to do so; however, we also understand that to continue the unsustainable practices and budgets of the past would certainly not be fiscally prudent, nor conservative. To ignore needs like infrastructure maintenance and safety and security will only result in an erosion of property values and lead to an even more dire financial situation.

By the time I'm finished my second term on council at the end of this year, I will have seen our property tax rate triple over this time period. Assuming the average home in Orwigsburg is valued at about \$100,000 (tax assessment of \$50,000), that means the average tax payment has increased from \$150 to \$450 per year. That equates to a \$300 increase annually, or just \$25 additional per month.

For that increase, we will assure the same level of services as always, while maintaining our long term sustainability. In short, although it's a difficult decision to raise taxes, it is the responsible thing we must do. I know many politicians would hide from these numbers, but in previous articles I've written with similar details, I have received good feedback and people say they appreciate the transparency.

Best town, best residents

The good news is that in 2017 Orwigsburg Borough has had the highest rate of growth of any municipality in the county. Maintaining our property values, attracting and retaining businesses, and managing an influx of new residents to replace those moving on are vital keys in keeping our tax base healthy.

I love our small town atmosphere, its charm, and its safety and security. That's something we can't take for granted, and it's up to all of us – elected officials or otherwise – to make sure we are in a constant state of improvement and maintain that stature.

I overheard Police Chief Koury commenting at a recent council meeting, "We really do have the best residents." I agree. I couldn't imagine raising a family anywhere else.

This is my last newsletter article as your Borough Council president. It was an honor and a privilege to serve.

– Buddy Touchinsky, Council President



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Proclamation from the Orwigsburg Mayor

Roots of This Town Stretch Deep and Strong

A few months ago, I received a call from the new Mayor of Alma, Texas. We shared some stories about both the challenges and the rewards of our offices. That conversation was concluded with a mutual notion of remaining in contact to deliberate future issues as necessary.



BARRY J. BERGER
Mayor

My daughter Carolyn lives in Bertram, Texas, about a three hour tour from Alma. When Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas Gulf Coast, we were relieved she was far enough from the storm to avoid all but peripheral rain and wind. Her damage was limited to discovering a leaky window in their "under construction" home.

As we now know, the folks in Houston had to deal with over four feet of rainfall delivered by Harvey. Carolyn was following several Facebook pages while Harvey was in action, including one belonging to the Mayor of Alma.

He joined a friend with a boat, went to Houston (another three hour tour, under normal circumstances) and enlisted in the "Lone Star Navy." Over several days, they and hundreds of other volunteers, helped

Houston area residents escape flood waters with their lives, loved ones, pets, and memories.

In the aftermath, the social media posts praised the Texan spirit for their response to the needs of others. Bob "Bumper" Peters, the Mayor of Alma, embraced his fresh Texas branches but credited his old-vine Orwigsburg roots for motivating his response. He praised his family, his educators, his peers and our environment for creating the parameters that required his actions. Having known him for over thirty years, I wasn't surprised.



At the October Borough Council meeting, a pair of items gave me a similar feeling. After a lengthy process, we welcomed Bryce Lewis as an officer of the Orwigsburg Police Department. In speaking with him prior to and following the official meeting, it's apparent that his skills and enthusiasm have been shaped by a desire to be a solid asset to our community. I have no doubt he will prove to be so in short order.

The other matter is in regard to a proven asset whose dedication is unquestionable. After sixteen years as Chief of the Friendship Hose Company, Dave Hardinger has decided to "retire." Chief Hardinger has devoted tens of thousands of volunteered hours over his forty-plus years of protective service to our community. He has earned the respect of his fellow first responders and our community. Thank you, Dave, for all you've done for Orwigsburg.

Communities are built on the actions of its members. Orwigsburg has grown out of the actions of the thousands of citizens who have contributed to its society for more than 200 years of existence. We are thankful for the impact our community has made, near and far, through our past and into our future.

– Barry J. Berger, Mayor



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Veterans Day celebration

Residents and visitors are asked to devote time on Veterans Day – Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. – to remember and honor veterans and current armed services personnel.



Always held the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, a parade and service – conducted jointly by Orwigsburg's James Steele American Legion Post 369 and the Joseph W. Morrison Post 2198 Veterans of Foreign Wars – will take place at the war memorials and flag pole at Centre Square.

Holiday Stop and Shop

Also taking place on Veterans Day – Saturday, Nov. 11 – get into the holiday spirit with the 12th annual Holiday Stop and Shop held at the Salem UM Church Fellowship Hall, South Liberty and West Independence streets. Select from unique gifts for everyone on your gift list (and yourself) sold and displayed by 18 vendors of home business lines.

The Stop and Shop will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Team Orwigsburg will serve lunch for a reasonable donation and offer its homemade soups and baked goods to benefit its service mission of "healing hearts and homes."

Thanksgiving church service

Present and former residents, family members,

and college students returning for the Thanksgiving holiday are reminded a community-wide Thanksgiving Eve church service will be hosted this year by St. John's UCC, 232 E. Market St., on Wednesday, Nov. 22 beginning at 7 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

Children's Christmas party

All area children, up to 10 years of age, and their parents and grandparents are invited to the 5th annual Orwigsburg Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall, Grove and North Washington streets.

This free community event is sponsored by Market Street Wash Rite and Classy III, Inc., and will feature Santa, a movie, crafts and refreshments. No prior registration is required.

Free hot dogs and drinks will be served. Children will be treated to an evening of fun. Santa is expected to make a special visit to Orwigsburg to meet with all the children at this event and receive their Christmas present "wish list."

Santa will arrive at 5:30 p.m. and the evening will conclude with the movie showing of "The Polar Express" beginning at 6 p.m. Bleacher seating is available for the movie or attendees are encouraged to bring blankets for floor seating.



This children's Christmas party is a supporter of the annual Toys for Tots campaign of the U.S. Marine Corps League through the Borough. Families are asked to bring a new unwrapped present on behalf of each child for the Toys for Tots collection.

Complete the Town Survey online

The Greater Orwigsburg Town Survey included in this issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings* is also available online. Respondents are able to complete and submit the survey by going to the website:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Ygq5VvrJrbW5DHLO2>

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

Toys for Tots collection box

Warm your heart and spirit this holiday season. When shopping for Christmas gifts to give to family members and friends, consider purchasing a toy or other item to help a needy youngster better enjoy this joyous time of year.

Orwigsburg Borough Hall is the official authorized drop-off location for the Toys for Tots campaign in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps League. Clean, new, and unwrapped toys will be accepted beginning November 27 through December 20 in the special collection box located in the first floor foyer area at Borough Hall, 209 N. Warren St.

A drop-off collection box will also be available at the Edward Jones Financial Advisors office, 210 W. Market St.

In addition, special Toys for Tots collections will be held Saturday, Nov. 25 at the Children's Christmas Party at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall and during the Festival of Lights celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2.

The Festival of Lights collection point will be a specially-decorated Borough Dump Truck parked prominently "on the square." Along with taking a horse-drawn Christmas trolley ride with Santa, help fill the Toys for Tots dump truck.



Win a bike for Christmas

Support the Orwigsburg Police Department and possibly win a bike for Christmas. The Borough will award two bicycles – one boy's, and one girl's – immediately after the tree lighting during the Festival of Lights.

Raffle tickets, on sale now at Borough Hall, are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Tickets will also be sold during the Festival of Lights prior to the drawing. The bicycles were donated by a town resident. All proceeds will help fund the Police Department.

Calling all veterans

In an effort to recognize all Orwigsburg veterans at the remodeled Veterans Community Memorial Hall, the project's development taskforce is requesting the names of service members (living or dead) from the Orwigsburg area who served our great country in the armed forces. If you, a family member, friend, neighbor, associate, or if you have knowledge of the military service of a member of our community, please forward your/their name, rank, branch of service, and the dates of federal service to Borough Manager Robert Williams at 570-366-3103 or robert@orwigsburg.net

Borough holiday schedule

Orwigsburg Borough will close its office in obser-

– Continued on page 12

Proud recipients of the Nationwide Insurance 2017 Community Service Award (one of only SIX agencies in the U.S.)

This award is given to agencies that show a strong commitment to their community and display Nationwide's values through volunteer service.



Jeffrey and Donna Spotts



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 11

vance of these coming holidays – Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, Thanksgiving; Friday and Monday, Dec. 22 and 25, Christmas; and Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, New Years Day.

Declared “Snow Emergency”

The Borough last year reduced the number of designated “Snow Emergency” streets through Orwigsburg in order for the snow plow crews to efficiently stay ahead of major snowfalls. Fewer snow emergency streets also mean less stress for many residents by not having to move their vehicles off the street right away ... and, if they are required, will have convenient streets allowing parking.

The designated “Snow Emergency” routes are: all of East and West Market streets, including both sides of Centre Square; South Liberty Street from Rt. 61 to Market, and North Washington Street from the blinker light to the Borough line.

During a snow and/or ice event, the Mayor of Orwigsburg may declare an official “Snow Emergency.” Residents will be made aware of the emergency by notice posted to the borough website and Facebook page, through announcements on radio



stations WPPA-AM and WAVT-FM, and by notice in the Republican Herald daily newspaper.

Households registered with the Borough’s direct notification system – Swiftreach 911 – will receive a phone call with a pre-recorded message from the Borough, an email, or text message depending on which method was requested. If you have not already done so, add your contact information via the Swiftreach link on the home page of the borough website: www.orwigsburg.net.

All vehicles parked on the designated “Snow Emergency” streets must be removed for a period of 24 hours once the emergency is declared or for a longer period as instructed.

Vehicles not removed, in violation of the emergency procedure, will be ticketed and will be towed. The vehicle owner is responsible for all towing costs. Ignorance of the declared emergency is not an excuse. It’s your responsibility to find out.

Compliant ID not available before March

State Representative Jerry Knowles recently announced Pennsylvania residents who need federally-compliant identification to access many federal facilities currently have a grace period through Jan. 22 of next year according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The enforcement grace period applies only to entrance to federal facilities. There is no enforcement on commercial air travel until Jan. 22, 2018.

“PennDOT has begun work on the implementation of REAL ID, and estimates REAL ID-compliant driver licenses and identification cards will be available at the customer’s option in March 2019. This will allow ample time for customers who want a REAL ID product to get one before the final DHS effective date of Oct. 1, 2020,” said Rep. Knowles.

Refuse/recycling collection

The Borough contracts with County Waste for the weekly collection of refuse and biweekly recycling collection. Curbside collection is on Tuesday for properties on Market Street and north ... and on Friday for properties south of Market Street. Up to six bags of trash are allowed each week.

Pickup will be delayed one day for residents



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

with Friday pickup due to the Thanksgiving holiday. That pickup for properties south of Market Street will be on Saturday, Nov. 25. Christmas and New Year holidays will not affect the refuse and recycling collection.



The Borough has adopted the International Property Maintenance Code that requires refuse kept outdoors to be stored in a leak-proof container with a close-fitting cover.

Recycling electronics

Federal law prohibits landfill disposal of desktop computers, laptops, monitors and peripherals, and televisions. These electronics must be recycled. County Waste will not take these in normal refuse and recycling collection.

Do your part for the environment by recycling or reusing these electronic devices. Unfortunately, the Schuylkill County annual Fall Cleanup has again, for the second year in a row, failed to allow electronics recycling.

Staples, located at the Cressona Mall off Rt. 61, will accept many computer related electronics at no cost. For additional information, call the store or check the website.

The Bloomsburg Recycling Center, 301 E. Second

St., Bloomsburg, also accepts electronics. Call 570-784-4532 for hours, directions, and acceptance of drop-offs.

Disposal of leaves and yard waste

Your curbside trash collection/disposal allows up to 10 bags of leaves each week. Sticks and branches should be broken in short pieces and bundled/tied together and placed beside your trash for normal pickup.

Leaves and debris in the street gutter of your property are your responsibility and must be raked and bagged for collection. If residents fail to clean their street gutter, the debris will clog storm drains and present a hazard.

Monthly large item pickup

One large item (furniture, etc.) may be placed at the curb beside your regular trash once per month. The collection date is the second Tuesday of each month for residents north of Market Street and the Friday following the second Tuesday for residents south

Month	Tues.	Fri.
Nov.	14	17
Dec.	12	15
Jan.	9	12
Feb.	13	16
March	13	16

LARGE ITEM PICKUP DATES

– Continued on page 14

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 13
of Market Street.

Residents should place trash at the curb anytime after 6 p.m. on evenings prior to collection. Because pickup times vary, do not wait until the morning of collection to place garbage.

Construction materials (shingles, drywall, cabinets, insulation, etc.) may not be placed at the curb with your regular trash. You must get a dumpster which can be leased from the borough's trash collector, County Waste, at 570-874-3047.

Call before you dig!

Contractors, service companies, or do-it-yourself property owners must call 8-1-1 before disturbing the ground in and around their property. Planting a tree? Building a deck? Installing a fence or even as simple as a mailbox, plan your project in advance and call the alert number several days before starting any digging project.

Tell the operator where you're planning to dig. Your affected local utility companies will be notified about your intent to dig and will send locators to your dig site to mark the approximate location of buried lines with flags or paint.

Request for cones

Cones are available for use from the Borough. A



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

cone request form must be filled out and is available from the borough office. Forty-eight hours notice must be given to allow time to get the cones delivered to their location and signs made and placed on the cones.

Indoor and outdoor event rental spaces

Do you need an event space for an upcoming family reunion, holiday or birthday party, business meeting, or other gathering?

Outdoors, the pavilion at Albright's Woods on Grove Street is available for rent. The park has a pavilion with picnic tables and a kitchen available for use. Rental fee for the kitchen is \$75, \$25 of which is a returnable security deposit. If the kitchen is not needed, a \$25 fee is charged. Indoors, facilities at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall can be rented.

For further details and to lock in your reservation at either call the borough office at 570-366-3103.



Owner/tenant forms

Reminder to all landlords: Orwigsburg Borough Ordinance #396 requires that every owner/lessor of any apartment, house or other type of rental building shall register with the Borough every year. If any tenant moves from the dwelling during the year, the owner shall notify the Borough within thirty (30) days of said changes. Forms are available at the borough office or from the borough website.

In addition, landlords living in excess of 20 miles from the Borough must designate a local manager for the property. This individual must live within 10 miles of the borough.

Now available – Credit/debit bill pay

As this newsletter is being published, the due date for quarterly utility bills is fast approaching. It is the responsibility of all property owners to pay their bills in full by the due date printed on the invoice.

Providing our residents with a higher level of customer service, Orwigsburg Borough now accepts credit and debit card payments for water, sewer, and



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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

trash service. Customers can make payments online at www.orwigsburg.net or at the Borough Office with major credit and debit cards.

The Borough utilizes the services of MuniPAY with Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or e-check. A user fee of 2.45% or \$3, whichever is greater, will be assessed per transaction. The fee for e-check is \$1.50.

The Borough does not collect, receive or retain any portion of the service fees. The fees are charged by MuniPAY in order to provide the service. MuniPAY is an electronic payment processing option currently used by local Schuylkill County municipalities designed specifically for local government and utility agencies.



Customers may continue to pay by cash, check or money order at the Borough Office, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, checks may be mailed to Orwigsburg Borough, 209 North Warren Street, Orwigsburg, PA 17961, or deposited in the 24/7 drop-off box located at the front door to Borough Hall.

Questions concerning our new payment options may be directed to kathi@orwigsburg.net or call 570-366-3103.

The Borough relies on these payments in order

to meet the debt service and operating costs for the water, wastewater and sanitation services. If a bill is not paid after a short grace period, collection efforts will be initiated. If efforts to collect payments are unsuccessful, additional steps could include interruption of service and/or a lien placed on your property. Property owners are responsible for all costs incurred to collect past due obligations.

To avoid these actions and additional costs, property owners must make payment arrangements with the Borough. Have accounts up to date or a payment arrangement in place by then to avoid loss of service.

Getting the word out

We use the Borough website www.orwigsburg.net as a valuable tool to keep residents and property owners informed about the happenings in the Borough. Our staff will keep the home page current with news on upcoming events and information on past events in the Borough.

The website lists borough meeting schedules. Minutes from these meetings are posted after they have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate body. The subdivision and zoning codes are also available for all to view. Numerous forms can be accessed, including applications for Albright's Woods usage. Trash day pickup changes will also be posted. Links to other websites, such as the Lions Club,

- Continued on page 16

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Borough Services Update . . . And Events!

– Continued from Page 15

library, churches and fire company are on the website.

The website also includes a link allowing residents to enter their contact information into the borough's Swiftreach 911 emergency notification system. This site allows the Borough to notify residents via telephone, text message and email of boil water advisories, weather emergencies or any other emergencies in a prompt manner.

Curb your animal

Borough Ordinance 299 prohibits pet owners from allowing their pets to defecate on another property without removing the feces from that property. Those violating this ordinance can be fined up to \$600.

Many residents take advantage of the parks and walking trail and are discouraged by the lack of consideration shown by some pet owners.

Proper disposal of Old Glory

Used flags may be brought to the borough office for proper disposal. Place flags inside the designated mailbox-like container in front of the borough building.

Used eyeglasses can be recycled

Lions International and all of its local Lions Club affiliates focus on eye/sight conservation as part of their global mission. The Orwigsburg Lions Club has an Eyeglass Collection Receptacle (mailbox-like, but

specially marked for eyeglasses) located outside the front entrance of Heiser's True-Value store on West Market Street. Residents who no longer need their old glasses can deposit them in the box to benefit someone less fortunate in the world.

The Lions Club also assists residents in need of, but unable to fully afford, eye examination and glasses.

In need of health aids

Are you or a loved one in need of any of these items to aid in recovery from illness or surgery?

- Wheelchair
- Walker – stationary & folding
- Hospital bed – manual & electric
- Cane – single and multi-legged
- Crutches
- Shower seat
- Bedside commode/bedpan
- Over-toilet seat with handrails
- Temporary tub hand rail
- Recliner chair with auto-lift seat



The Orwigsburg Lions' "Health Equipment Loan Program" provides these items to local residents at no charge as a community service. To arrange a loan, call Larry Dagna at 570-617-6149 or Walt Schimpf as a secondary contact at 570-366-0784 or call 570-449-0659 and leave a message.



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From the Desk of the Fire Chief . . .

Stepping Down as Chief with Grand Appreciation

At the end of this year, I will be hanging up my Fire Chief's helmet. Although it seems like only yesterday, 16 years have passed since I accepted the post of Fire Chief for Orwigsburg. As I approach the end of this job, I've spent some time looking back at those years and I am reminded how fortunate I have been and how many people I have to thank.

First in line are the men and women of the Orwigsburg Fire Department (OFD). Without a doubt, they are the best group of firefighters that God ever gave to a Fire Chief and it was an honor to serve with them. We accomplished much together and I wish them continued success in the future.

I was blessed at the very beginning of my career in the Fire Service to have had two very important mentors in Fire Chief Adam Faust and Assistant Chief Alan Shepler. The lessons they shared have served me well on countless occasions over the years and I am in their debt.

Being a Fire Chief is to be a member of a fairly small fraternity. I was lucky to have been a member of the local southeastern Schuylkill County group with some great Chiefs – Mike Strouse of Deer Lake West Brunswick, Dave Hoffman of Landingville, and

Joe Caracappa of New Ringgold. They are some of the best, having been good comrades and staunch allies during many difficult times. I will always be grateful to them for their professionalism and their support and will miss sharing the fireground with them.

I also appreciate the support that members of Orwigsburg's Borough Council have shown to me personally and to the OFD. In addition, Borough Manager Bob Williams and his office personnel, Sherry Edwards and Kathi Mengle, have been a Godsend on many occasions.

The biggest thank you, goes to you, the residents of Orwigsburg. Your support is the key to the operation of the Fire Department and you never let us down. Whether responding to our annual fund drive letter or coming out to show your support to the firefighters during a major emergency in town, you were always there for us and I will always be grateful.

Last but certainly not least, I must thank my wife, Patti. She took care of our family and kept the home fires burning while I was out chasing the other kind. I never could have done the job without her.

I will sign off, wishing each of you the very best. Take care and stay safe.

– Dave Hardinger, Fire Chief



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Orwigsburg Business & Professional Assoc.

Seen or Behind the Scenes – An Active Group!

With Halloween just behind us and nearly 50 shopping days until Christmas, some might think it too early to reflect on 2017 and look forward to 2018. We, at the Orwigsburg Business and Professional Association (OBPA), believe that with the crush of Thanksgiving and other holidays just on the horizon, it may be the best time to look back and think ahead. So, please indulge us for a few minutes as we summarize our accomplishments and plans.

During the past 10 months, we've grown our membership to 90 strong. Through the active and on-going participation by these members, we've presented the Orwigsburg area with an array of activities and events.

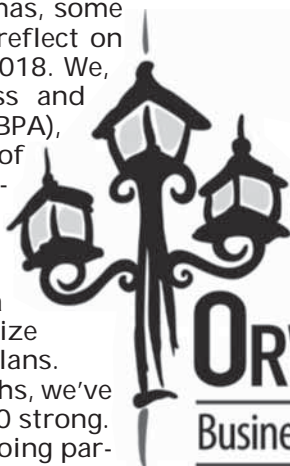
In early spring, Chad Reinert's rousing concert at the beautifully renovated Memorial Building kicked off the season. Not long after Chad's performance, OBPA held its third annual get-to-know-us Spring Mixer for present and future members as well as invited state, county and borough officials.

The outdoor season began with the return of

the very popular Yappy Hour in May and the June Jamboree the following month, featuring an area winery, artists and the occasional beer. The Farmers Market made its debut in July and Family Fun Fest gave young and old alike the chance to enjoy each other and a perfect August summer evening.

Orwigsburg's Heritage Day marked its 26th year celebrating our past while looking forward to our future. Before year's end, the Chili and Chill's celebration of All Hallows Eve, will have offered both amateur and professional chefs a chance to treat the town to their own chili creations while being surrounded by ghoulish and goofily-costumed patrons.

The last happening of 2017 is the beautiful and tranquil diversion from the crazy holiday season – Orwigsburg's Festival of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 2. This traditional event features the songs and sounds of the season while offering area businesses the chance to show off their creative side in the wreath-decorating contest. The Blue Mountain High School Band will entertain and warm food and homemade goodies will be served by the Orwigsburg Lions. Youngsters will be able to participate in a holiday craft and Santa will arrive via horse-drawn trolley fol-



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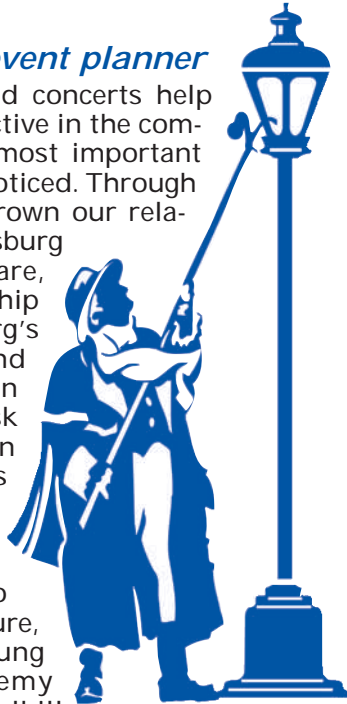
Orwigsburg Business & Professional Assoc.

lowing the community tree and Square lighting by the town's lamplighter. Be sure to enjoy a free trolley ride with Santa that travels around our festively decorated town square.

Much more than an event planner

High profile events and concerts help to keep the organization active in the community, but some of the most important work we do often goes unnoticed. Through joint cooperation, we've grown our relationship with the Orwigsburg Lions, Women Who Care, Team Orwigsburg, Friendship Fire Co., and Orwigsburg's Historical Society and Library. OBPA participates in the Veteran's Memorial Task Force 300 Club Donation program and routinely has a representative at the monthly Borough Council Meetings.

As part of our plan to build a bridge to the future, OBPA established a Young Entrepreneurs Academy (offered by the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce located at Penn State



Schuylkill) scholarship for local youth. We also created a business/community scholarship for deserving Blue Mountain High School students and are working with the borough to foster ideas for structural improvements, including the eventual installation of electricity and a band shelter on the Orwigsburg Community Lot.

OBPA encourages fresh ideas for improvements from individuals and businesses alike and is always seeking new members. For you, if it's none of the above, support our efforts with a purchase of our unique and colorful t-shirts.

Whatever your interest, you can learn more at our website, www.orwigsburgbusiness.org, visit our Facebook page, or call OBPA president Pat Falco at 610-462-9167.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Wednesday of the Month

Borough Council Work Session @ 7:30 p.m.

2nd Wednesday of the Month

Borough Council Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Planning & Zoning Commission @ 7:30 p.m.

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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

Improvements Continue; Still More to Come

As we welcome back fall, some of us look forward to the changing color of the landscape, the cool nights, pumpkins, and hayrides. Others start preparing for the winter months ahead. For the Veteran's Memorial Task Force members, we dig in our heels and continue planning our next project.

With the close of summer, this phase of outside improvements was brought to a close. There is a new look to the front of the building and a significant change to the parking lot. Be watchful and aware of the new travel patterns. Let's also remember to be patient as the change is new for all attending the building.

The plans for the return of the outdoor basketball court have been submitted and approved. The project is being completed as part of a grant received from the state Department of Conservation and Natural



Resources (DCNR) to foster and promote outdoor recreation. Construction bids will be requested at the beginning of 2018 and scheduled for completion in the spring, assuming cooperation from Mother Nature.

Plans for the Veterans Memorial Room are nearing completion and final review. Work is expected to commence shortly. The room will contain an office

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Veterans Community Memorial Hall

space for veterans affairs and memorial pieces to honor those who have served from our community. Orwigsburg Borough is continually accepting honor roll applicants to be permanently named and on display in the completed space. The form to submit an honor candidate can be downloaded from the Task Force website www.orwigsburgmemorial.com or by contacting Borough Hall at (570) 366-3103.

Indoor improvement aplenty

Those returning to Memorial Hall for fall sports practices, basketball leagues, fundraising events, birthday parties, club meetings or community sponsored events will notice many changes that took place over the summer months. New state-of-the-art bleachers have been installed, bringing comfort and safety to the spectators, fans and support staff maintaining the facility.

Additionally, the building was closed for a few weeks for refinishing of the hardwood basketball court. After years of wear and many miles of travel up and down the court, it was due. Refinishing the court and continuing with proper care and maintenance will provide an amazing surface for years and years to come.

This has been a great year for progress of the building improvements. The task force would not be successful without the support of the Borough staff and the community. We're closing in on the finish

line of the project and continue to appreciate all of the support.

This is our community building! We all need to do our part to see it succeed well into the future. With many of the new improvements, expect to see new rules for use and care, or tighter enforcement of existing rules. Groups with lease agreements should read those carefully and understand your obligations. Contact Borough Hall with questions about existing lease agreements or interest in future lease agreements.

Those considering donating time or funds to the ongoing improvements, follow the link at www.orwigsburgmemorial.com, on Facebook, contact by email at memorial@orwigsburg.net, or reach out to a task force member for more information. Every pledge helps to get us one step closer to completion.

SPREAD THE WORD

Interested in submitting an article for next quarter's issue of *Orwigsburg Happenings*? We welcome community service and non-profit organization information. Please contact Kathi Mengle at 570-366-3103 or kathi@orwigsburg.net



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Orwigsburg Police Department

You may soon see a new Orwigsburg Police Department (OPD) vehicle roaming the streets. Or, maybe you won't see it!

Borough Council approved the purchase of a new 2018 Ford Explorer to replace the department's well-worn 2013 Ford Taurus. The new unit will be roomier to drive and will give plenty of room in the trunk for tools and equipment.

Why you might not be seeing it is that it will be all black with black graphics called "ghost lettering." In addition, there will be no exterior light bar as all emergency lighting will be contained inside.

The new vehicle will enable officers to better enforce traffic laws while driving "stealthier" when patrolling through town. The graphics will still be visible; however, they will be subdued but reflective so they pop when light hits them.

The vehicle will include an in-car camera similar to the second patrol unit. Tablet computers will be installed in both. The tablets will enable officers to e-file citations and write reports from inside the car, saving time on traffic stops and not requiring return to the station in order to write the report. Delivery of the new patrol car is expected by December.



Don't allow yourself to be a victim

One of the most common crimes in any community is theft from motor vehicles, sheds, or garages. Often these locations are not secured and belongings are in plain view. In law enforcement terminology, this is called a "crime of opportunity."

Lawbreakers commit these theft crimes because they are easy targets. Often times a criminal won't smash a window or force a car door open because it's too much work and draws attention. You can prevent being a victim of these type crimes by locking your vehicle and closing your garage door.

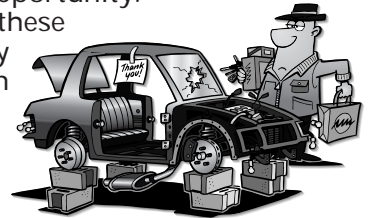
When leaving your car, make sure there aren't any valuable items inside like money or phones. Even if you forget to lock your car, at least there'll be nothing to steal.

We now offer fingerprinting

The OPD now offers fingerprinting free of charge to borough residents. Call the station beforehand to assure an officer is available.

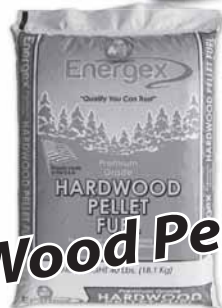
Santa's sleigh is legal

Every year in Orwigsburg, the police department receives multiple calls about Santa's sleigh riding



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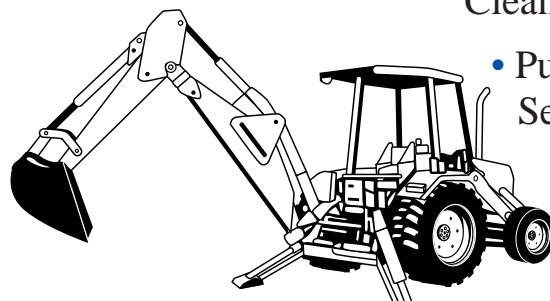
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Police Department

through town. Santa's sleigh is NOT required to be registered.

PA Vehicle Code, Section 1302 – "Vehicles Exempt from Registration," subsection 7, exempts "any vehicle moved solely by human or animal power." Since Santa's sleigh uses reindeer power, it need not be registered and is allowed to navigate state and local roads.

Police officers will not respond to reports on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning regarding Santa's sleigh. If you received coal in your stocking last Christmas, retribution through police citation is not the proper action and may keep you on Santa's "naughty" list.



R&J TOURS – 2017-18 HAPPENINGS

Call For Dates – New York City.....	\$40
Call For Dates – Radio City.....	call
Nov 29 – PA Opry-A Country Gospel Christmas	\$92
Dec 2 – Gourmet Food Shopping, NYC.....	\$41
Dec 6 – 2017 Christmas Show @ AMT	\$90*
Dec 9 – Christmas in Cape May	\$148
Dec 13 – Guess who's coming to Christmas @ Rainbow Dinner Theatre	\$74
Dec 28 – A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens @ Dutch Apple.....	\$42
Dec 31 – Sands Casino	\$25
Jan 10 – Hershey Bears vs Springfield.....	\$54
Jan 13 – Elvis Birthday Bash	\$63
Feb 3 – Philadelphia Auto Show	\$50
Feb 9 – Riverdance @ American Music Theatre	\$99
Feb 10 – Philadelphia 76ers vs LA Clippers	\$118
Feb 10 – Ring of Fire @ Dutch Apple	\$86*
Feb 16 – Roy & Conway @ Hunterdon Hills	\$87
Feb 20 – Mt. Airy-Basically Bennet.....	\$67
Feb 27 – Uncle Floyd's Comedy @ Hunterdon Hills.....	\$87
March 3 – Spring Doo Wop Cavalcade @ American Music Theatre.....	\$89
March 3 – Terra Cotta & Reading Terminal Market.....	*\$58
March 4 – Amazing Grace @ American Music Theatre.....	\$87
Call for dates – Philadelphia Flower Show	call

OVERNIGHTS

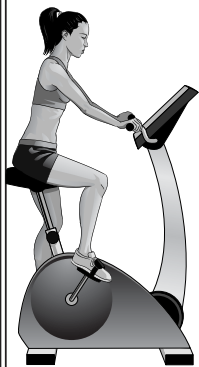
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Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library

"Have Books, Will Travel" to Independence Square

One of the unique Orwigsburg "happenings" this issue is the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library's move to its new and improved location on the first floor of the Independence Square senior living apartment building. Specific dates to close the current location for several days and reopen at the new site have not yet been nailed down. The process will be well along by the time you read this.

The Library is going from the east side to the west side of town – a move of only four blocks, but a major undertaking none the less – to establish its new permanent home at 216 W. Independence Street.

You can celebrate the move and see the new facility for yourself. The library's 2nd annual Fall Fest will be held there on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. Enjoy the festivities, refreshments and activities for all ages.

The Orwigsburg Library hopes to be open and back in full swing by Monday, Nov. 13. All of the community's favorite clubs, story times and programs will continue with added events and programs in the upcoming months. A new Saturday Morning Storytime with Miss Claudine will begin once per month – Nov. 18 and Dec. 16, both beginning at 10 a.m.

Be a part of the new library

There are many ways to help the library through its Capital Campaign to fund the move and new facilities.

One opportunity is to purchase a tile piece "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one or just for yourself. The tile can be individually designed by and for friends and supporters of the library and will be placed in the new facility for all to see. Ask for information the next time you visit the library or during the Fall Fest at the new location.

Holly Trail celebrates the season

The Orwigsburg Holly Trail – a major fundraiser sponsored each year by the library – will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon to 4 p.m. It's a wonderful opportunity to tour area homes and other locations "on the trail" professionally decorated for the holiday season.

Tickets for the Holly Trail can be purchased in advance at the Orwigsburg Library at a cost of \$15 per person or on the day for \$20. The trail begins from the library where you will receive a program with site descriptions and the trail map.

At the conclusion of the Holly Trail, all area residents and visitors are encouraged to attend Orwigsburg's Festival of Lights celebration that takes place "on the square" from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

A "Night Before the Trail" party will be held Friday, Dec. 1 at Vintage This, Repurpose That, located on Rt. 61 just south of the S. Liberty St. intersection. This event also benefits the library.

GABRIEL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE



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Sunday, Dec. 17 – 3 p.m.

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Newsletter Particulars

"Orwigsburg Happenings" is a quarterly newsletter of the Borough of Orwigsburg distributed to 1,400 households within the borough.

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www.SouthSchuylkillPrinting.com

Publication dates for the next three issues are
February 8, May 10 and August 10, 2018

News Submittals

Nonprofit and community organizations within the Borough are invited to submit news items for consideration. Written submittals must be received by Kathi Mengle in the borough offices, kathi@orwigsburg.net or call 570-366-3103 for info, three weeks prior to the publication date.

Advertising

Businesses wishing to reach every household in the Borough of Orwigsburg are invited to advertise in future issues. Contact South Schuylkill Printing & Publishing for more information. Call Barb @ 570-385-3120. All advertisements must be received at least three weeks prior to the publication dates. Ad content is subject to approval and acceptance by the Borough of Orwigsburg.

State Senator David G. Argall

Property Tax Relief for PA Homeowners

School property tax elimination continues to be my main priority in the state legislature. Residents, from my district as well as all across Pennsylvania, contact my office each week encouraging me to get Senate Bill 76 – Property Tax Independence Act – passed. Many share their personal stories of how this onerous tax has negatively impacted their lives.



**SENATOR
DAVID ARGALL**

Some have told me they will be forced to move to one of our neighboring states where school property taxes are significantly lower. Others have mentioned their mortgages are actually cheaper than their school property tax bill each year. They welcome the tax shift component of Senate Bill 76 with open arms.

The number one purpose of Senate Bill 76 is plain and simple – completely eliminate school property taxes in Pennsylvania. This tax, which dates back to the 1830s, is not only stifling the American dream of homeownership for current residents, but for future ones as well. It is clear that something needs to be done immediately.

While many residents have voiced their concerns and frustration over the delays in passing Senate Bill 76, be assured we continue to build support in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

In-depth policy hearings have been held across the state discussing this issue and alternative property tax relief options. In 2015 we finally reached a 24-24 vote in the senate, but the Lieutenant Governor cast the tie-breaking vote against the measure.

Homestead exemption could help

Despite these setbacks, I believe we are headed in the right direction, particularly with the Senate's passage of a proposed constitutional amendment allowing property tax relief through a homestead exemption.

Currently, the Pennsylvania Constitution allows local taxing authorities to exempt up to 50 percent of

the median assessed value of homestead properties or primary residences within a municipality, county or school district.

Under the approved proposal, House Bill 1285 would allow exclusion to 100 percent. Requiring amendment to the state's constitution, the initiative must meet the following requirements: 1) pass in two consecutive legislative sessions, and 2) seek approval by a voter referendum.

The initiative has met the first criteria beginning with its passage last year as House Bill 147 and its approval by the Senate this past July. This November election, voters across the state will be able to have their say on the ballot referendum:

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law?

The fight to eliminate the school property tax is certainly not an easy one, but I do believe that when this referendum passes, it will help us obtain the House and Senate votes we need to amend and pass Senate Bill 76.

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Orwigsburg Historical Society

Fall is upon us and the Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday season is coming soon. That can only mean that winter is not far behind. When hosting family and friends, it's a great opportunity to explore the rich history of the Orwigsburg area by visiting your local society and museum.

The Orwigsburg Historical Society & Museum has added many new artifacts to the museum's growing collection. Plan a visit. We're open on Tuesday and Thursday each week from noon to 4 p.m. and can be made available at other times by appointment. We're located in the original 1891 Friendship Hose Co. building at 109 East Mifflin Street. Contact the society by calling 570-617-7809 or 570-366-8769 for more information regarding visits or other services.

County Barns & Farms spotlighted

The next monthly presentation at the Historical Society will take place Thursday, Nov. 16 beginning at 7 p.m. "Schuylkill County's Barns & Farms" will be presented by Judith Ann Lengle, board member of the Historic Barn & Farm Foundation of PA.

Agriculture has guided Pennsylvania's economic and cultural development, as well as shaped the land and its people for centuries. Many factors such as road projects, new construction, and economic development place an enormous pressure



on farmland. As a result, many barns located on Pennsylvania's farms are rapidly falling into disrepair or disappearing completely.

This program will highlight many of Schuylkill County's historic barns and their unique architecture. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the program. Guests are invited to bring information and photos of their own barns and historic farm buildings.

Capital Campaign continues

If you haven't already done so, you can help sustain Orwigsburg's history by donating to the 2017 Capital Campaign. In addition to brick repointing, exterior painting and interior wall repainting, the society is faced with two major projects – furnace and roof repairs.



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Orwigsburg Historical Society

No donation is too small or insignificant and will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be designated "in honor of" or "in memory of" and can be the perfect gift for that person who has everything.

Tours and community room available

Individuals or groups are invited to schedule a visit or rent the museum for private parties, class reunions, etc. The large community room is also available for family reunions or other social or business gatherings.

Gift-giving can be year-round

The Orwigsburg Historical Society has many gift ideas for Christmas, birthdays, and anniversaries. Society memberships, books, postcards, frameable cards, renderings of historic buildings, illusions, and photo reprints are just a few of the many gift ideas for purchase.

Consider joining the society. Annual memberships are \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family, and \$50 for a business membership. Members gain free admission to the museum, the "Old Jail," and for educational programs; have access to the society's research materials (local church records, Board of Health records, DAR files, municipal tax ledgers, and more); assistance with genealogical research; discount on community room or museum rental; notice of surprise sales and discounts on museum store merchandise.



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Christmas Eve Services
December 24 – 9 a.m. & 7 p.m.



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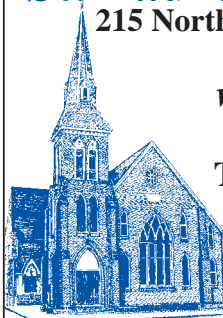
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Worship Times

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Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.



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Candlelight Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 17

4 p.m.

Featuring Chancel
and Bell Choirs of
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Christmas Eve Worship
Dec. 24 – 5 p.m. (families)
9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

Zion's Red Church

Come visit and worship at historic Zion's Red Church on Route 61 at Brick Hill Road just east of Orwigsburg Borough. Offering a traditional style of worship, all are encouraged to attend in a welcoming atmosphere. Sunday worship begins each week at 10:30 a.m. Zion's is a union congregation of Evangelical Lutheran and United Church of Christ denominations.

Once again, Zion's Red Church offers a Blue Christmas service on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. This day is the winter solstice – the longest night of the year. People may feel blue, experiencing darkness overtaking the light. For some the holiday season is not the happiest for a number of reasons – grieving the loss of a family member, loss of a job, suffering illness, feeling financial burden, or worried about other stresses. The Blue Christmas service may offer comfort, featuring gentle music, readings, healing prayer, and a time for quiet reflection. Come and enjoy this peaceful worship with us.

Christmas Eve – Worship with us on Christmas Eve – Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. – with a candlelight service when the beauty of the season comes alive as we celebrate the Christ Child in our midst. Join us for scripture, familiar carols, and the singing of "Silent



Night" as the sanctuary is filled with glowing candlelight. Join us at this beautiful, inspiring service as we journey to the manger together.

Feel free to contact the church office at 570-366-1178 for additional information or visit our website at www.zionsredchurch.org.

Faith Worship Center

The fall season in Pennsylvania is absolutely beautiful. As the fall colors appear, and the football season is well underway, it is also an exciting time at Faith Worship Center, having returned to a full schedule of Sunday celebration services at 9 and 11 a.m. Child care and all-age group lesson classes are held during the 11 a.m. service.



Each Sunday the church body comes together to sing praises to God with the Worship Band playing familiar worship songs, some old-time favorites, and a new song each Sunday. Pastor Doug Cresswell is currently presenting a series about "Developing a Faith That Works" and explores the Book of James and what James tells us about our faith.

All are welcome at Faith Church, located at 1168 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61). Our sign explains our mission – Loving God, loving people, and serving the community. We have developed nearly 40 active outreach ministries for those interested. One such ministry – The Hope Initiative group – has traveled to various counties in the state sharing its approach and ideas to help those addicted and their families.

Coming in December is our second year for our Quiet Christmas service. This service is for those who may be hurting from a loss or sickness or any number of reasons that make Christmas time difficult.

For more information on Faith Worship Center's many groups or to find help for your needs, contact the church at 570-366-5131 or visit the website at www.atfaithchurch.com.

St. John's UCC

St. John's United Church of Christ, 232 E. Market St., welcomes everyone – no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey – to join us in worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Children in kindergarten through sixth grade enjoy Sunday school lessons after hearing the children's sermon and receiving a blessing. A coffee and fellowship hour follows the service.

Pastor Jan Remer-Osborn was called to the congregation in January of this year and has found a home in Orwigsburg with



Salem United Methodist Church



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8:45 a.m. – Traditional

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10:45 a.m. – Contemporary w/Praise Band

6:30 p.m. – SNL Coffeehouse

– SPECIAL EVENTS –

NOV. 11 – 12th Annual Holiday Stop and Shop 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Dec. 10 – The God Squad Holiday Performance at 8:45 & 10:45 a.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at 4, 7, and 9 p.m.

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

her husband, Dave. Join her in a social setting as she welcomes new and familiar faces every Wednesday at the 419 Market Café & Eatery on West Market Street from 9:30- 11:30 a.m.

New programs are continuously forming. Presently a Women Only AA meeting is held each Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m. in the church office. A women's "food and fellowship" group gathers at the parsonage on Tuesday evening from 7 p.m. A Bible study group for both men and women meets Thursday morning at 9 a.m. in the church office. The Open Mic program is now "under construction" but look for updates in the spring.

"Choices – A Support Group for Healing and Recovery" will be meeting on the third Monday each month, beginning November 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the conference room of St. John's church. Pastor Jan will be facilitating the group for those who want to move forward in their lives. Please call her at 630-254-9236 to sign up. St. John's will host a community seminar – Skook Recovers, a personal story – on drug addiction, recognizing symptoms of abuse in youth, at the church on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Special services in December include a Sunday school pageant on December 10 and a Christmas Cantata musical program on December 17. Both will be part of the 10 a.m. worship service. Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, Dec. 24 will include the 10 a.m. service and a special candlelight service at 8 p.m.

Other activities in December will feature a display of nativity scene collections at St. John's as a stop on the annual Orwigsburg Holly Trail, a fundraiser benefiting the Library. It happens on Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon through 4 p.m. And, plan to arrive early for our annual Christmas cookie sale to be held Saturday, Dec. 9. Doors of the Fellowship Hall open at 9 a.m. and "sell out" happens quickly!

St. John's hosts many community groups including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Senior Citizens, Team Orwigsburg, Diakon health sessions, yoga classes, and self-defense classes.

The Fellowship Hall is available to rent for private parties (no alcohol) during the year. Phone the church office at 570-366-2255 with any questions about programming or hall rental.

The Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry is housed at

St. John's and is supported by eight area churches. Non-perishable food items, monetary donations, and volunteer time are always needed. Contact the Food Pantry at 570-366-2255 and answered at the church office. Distribution is made the third Saturday each month from 9 to 11 a.m.

Salem UM Church

Salem United Methodist Church – "where Liberty meets Independence" – at 133 S. Liberty St., will be a hub of activity throughout the coming holiday and Advent season. Though only a summary is offered here, visit www.SalemUM.com, email office@SalemUM.com,



or call 570-366-0201 for additional information.

Salem Church offers three unique worship services each Sunday with a traditional worship at 8:45 a.m., a contemporary worship at 10:45 a.m., and the SNL Coffeehouse at 6:30 p.m. Sunday School for all ages is held at 10 a.m. and Children's Choir and Children's Church is held during the 10:45 worship for grades one through five. A paid nursery attendant is on staff from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SNL is Salem's open door, coffeehouse-style wor-

– Continued on page 30

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

1st Sunday in Advent, Holy Communion

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Blue Christmas Service at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Worship at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.

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A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches

– Continued from Page 29

ship experience, held Sunday evenings in Sandherr Hall. In a small group setting, we share the Good News of Christ through messages, discussions and Christian films. This time of worship and outreach is under the leadership of Salem's lay speakers, with guest appearances by Pastor Stew Warner. On meal and movie nights once each month, SNL begins at 6 p.m.

Activities in November kick off with our 12th annual Holiday Stop and Shop on Nov. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Have a fun time shopping from a selection of 18 unique vendors. New companies are added each year. Team Orwigsburg will sponsor its soup/bake sale and serve up hot lunch offerings at reasonable prices.

November 12 is Flood Bucket Sunday at SNL. Come for a hands-on experience at putting together clean up kits for UMCOR. To contribute additional items for the buckets, see the list posted at www.SalemUM.com.

A "thank offering" will be received on Sunday, Nov. 19 with food and monetary donations benefiting the Orwigsburg Food Pantry.

In partnership with Welcoming and Youth Ministries, SNL will hold its second Teen Rock Worship Night on Sunday, Nov. 26. Worship will be led by James Harvey and music performed by Think of 3. The event – Think of Three: Prayer, Praise & Pizza –

will be held in Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and is free to all area youth and their families.

In December, Welcoming and SNL will again team to host Salem's third Advent Workshop on Dec. 3 in Sandherr Hall beginning at 3 p.m. and ending with a soup and sandwich supper at 5. This family crafts workshop will feature creative make-and-take projects for both adults and children. The event is free and open to the community. Participants are asked to pre-register to assure enough materials are available. Signup during Sunday services or by calling the church office with the number of adults and children expected to attend.

Sunday, Dec. 10 will feature the Salem God Squad bell ringers playing Christmas melodies at both morning worship services. The UM Women will hold a Christmas cookie sale on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. Sunday, Dec. 17 is Music Sunday with breakfast served at 9:45 a.m. between the two worship times. SNL Movie Night will be held that evening at 6 p.m.

Looking for a church to enjoy Christmas Eve? Salem welcomes all with three worship services beginning with one at 4 p.m. ideal for families with young children, a contemporary service at 7 p.m., and a traditional service at 9 p.m. All three will have candle lighting to represent the light of Christ coming into our dark world.

Our Mission at Salem Church is TLC – Transforming Lives through Christ. If you are searching and seeking, we welcome you to visit us and learn how your life can be transformed through Christ.

St. Paul's Lutheran

Located at 215 North Warren St. in Orwigsburg, St. Paul's Lutheran Church welcomes all to worship and to be part of the church family. Weekly services are held on Saturday beginning at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

The office is open Tuesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and can be reached by calling 570-366-2316. Additional information can be obtained at www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org.

Special holiday services and opportunities to see the beautifully decorated church have been planned. The public is encouraged to enjoy these services.



Kimmels Church

179 Pine Creek Drive • Orwigsburg, PA
www.kimmelschurch.org

Join Us!

Tea & Cookies Stop
During the Holly Trail

December 2 - noon to 4 pm

Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 10:00 am & 6:30 pm

Sweetheart Banquet

Featuring 'The Hilarious Magic of Sam Sandler'
February 10, Doors Open @ 5:00 pm
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www.kimmelschurch.org • Phone: 570-943-2759



St. John's United
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Traditional worship for contemporary souls

Dec. 2 – Holly Trail Nativity Display – Noon-4 p.m.

Dec. 9 – Annual Christmas Cookie Sale – 9 a.m.

Dec. 17 – Christmas Cantata, 10 a.m.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.

Every Sunday – Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m.

Communion the first Sunday of each month

A Town's Spirit Reflected Through Its Churches



The St. Paul's Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and instrumentalists will present a candlelight Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy this wonderful presentation of the season's music.

All are encouraged to be part of St. Paul's Christmas Eve worship services. Each will have candle lighting and the sacrament of Holy Communion. A family service for all ages will be held at 5 p.m. Evening services will be held at 9 and 11 p.m.

Kimmels Church

As we approach colder weather and a joyous holiday and Advent season, the Kimmels Church congregation wishes all in the community a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Kimmels Church once again will host the "tea and cookies" stop of the Orwigsburg Holly Trail on Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon to 4 p.m. All are encouraged to enjoy this special event that helps raise funds for the Orwigsburg Area Free Public Library. Purchase tickets and get your program and map at the library. Enjoy your stop at Kimmels with the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas. Listen to live Christmas music performed on our stage and enjoy refresh-

ments handmade just for you. Best of all, let us help prepare your heart for the coming Christmas season.

Residents and visitors from throughout the area are invited to Christmas season services this year starting November 26 and each Sunday through Christmas Eve. Worship begins at 10 a.m. A special Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24 begins at 6:30 p.m. with a carol sing featuring our choir ensemble and sharing the message of Christmas through song. Join in candle lighting as we remember the Light of the World – Jesus Christ and His birth.

Tickets are available now for the annual Sweetheart Dinner & Show set for Saturday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. The annual event features a full course candlelight meal and entertainment by "The Hilarious Magic of Sam Sandler."

Additional information on these and other events can be found at kimmelschurch.org or phone the church office at 570-943-2759. The church is located at 179 Pine Creek Drive, just off Kimmels Road, on the eastern end of Orwigsburg.



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Holly Trail
& Festival
of Lights
Dec. 2

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2017 Remaining Holiday Schedule

*Orwigsburg Borough Offices will be closed
the following days*

Thursday – November 23rd	Thanksgiving
Friday – November 24th	
Friday – December 22nd	Christmas
Monday – December 25th	
Monday – January 1st	New Year's

We wish you and your families a very safe and
happy holiday season and look forward to a
great new year of serving you.

